

**TESTIMONY ON HB 1135
SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

February 15, 2021

**By: Jim Upgren, Assistant Director, Office of School Approval and Opportunity
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North Dakota Department of Public Instruction

Chairman Schaible and Members of the Committee:

My name is Jim Upgren, Assistant Director in the Office of School Approval and Opportunity for the North Dakota Department of Public Instruction. I am here today on behalf of the department to speak in favor of HB 1135, regarding proficiency-based grading for the North Dakota Academic and CTE Scholarship.

HB 1135 will allow districts that use proficiency-based grading as part of an approved innovative waiver to have those grades count towards meeting the criteria of the North Dakota Academic and CTE Scholarship, commonly referred to as the state scholarship. Two of the requirements for the scholarship are to have a grade point average of at least 3.0 on a 4-point scale, and also to have no grades lower than a C. With these current requirements being based on a traditional A, B, C, D grading scale, students that attend schools using a proficiency-based grading scale would not be eligible for the scholarship using their school's grading scale. HB 1135 would allow schools to use equivalent scores from the proficiency-based grading scale that is part of their approved innovative education plan, allowing students to meet the grading portion of the scholarship requirements. HB 1135 adds value to innovative

education, and passing this bill sends a message that schools will not be penalized by choosing to do new things.

Chairman Schaible and Members of the Committee that concludes my prepared testimony and I will stand for any questions that you may have.